

Date 7th March 1918, shot by Mr. W. R. French and skin given to J. C. Hopwood.

Bill black, legs flesh colour, claws horny."

The catalogue of the Game Birds in the collection of the British Museum gives the following:

RHIZOTHERA.

Rhizothera (Gray).—"List. Gen. B, 2nd ed., p. 79 (1841), Type.
id. Gen. B. iii, p. 505 (1846) R. longirostris.

Tail with 12 feathers, rather more than half the length of the wing.

1st primary equal to the 10th, 6th slightly the longest. Tarsi longer than middle toe and claw, and provided in both sexes with a pair of short stout spurs. Claws, moderate and slightly curved.

Range.—Southern part of the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo."

There are only two known species, the other Hose's Long-billed Francolin (*Rhizothera dulitensis*, Ogilvie-Grant) having been got at Mount Dulit in Borneo.

Ogilvie-Grant in his Hand-book to the Game Birds, Vol. I., gives the following concise description of the bird:—

"*Adult male*.—Top of the head rich brown; general colour above chestnut, blotched with black, shading into grey, mixed with buff on the lower back and upper tail coverts; sides of head and throat reddish chestnut; neck, chest, and upper mantle grey; rest of underparts rufous buff. Total length 14·6 inches; wing 7·7; tail 3·5; tarsus 2·2.

Adult female.—Differs from the males in having the neck and chest rufous-chestnut, and the lower back and upper tail coverts mostly buff. Slightly smaller than the male."

Finn in his Game Birds of India and Asia says:

"This peculiar Partridge, which ranges from the south of the Malay Peninsula to Borneo, is at once recognisable by its large bill, which is big enough for a peacock, though the bird is of the ordinary partridge size about fourteen inches long."

Great credit is due to Mr. Hopwood for adding this species, as Davison with a good staff had collected in Tennasserim for over four years. Bingham and others also collected there without discovering it and game birds however rare they may be, are not as a rule absolutely passed over.

I hope Mr. Hopwood will be able to get further specimens and give us more information about this interesting bird.

CHAS. M. INGLIS, M.B.O.U

BAGHOWNIE FTY.,

DARBHANG DIST., 31st August 1918.

No. XX.—NATURAL HISTORY NOTES FROM FAO

BY

W. D. CUMMING.

(Corrections to the List of Birds from Fao published in the "Ibis," 1886 and 1891.)

The Persian Hooded Crow—*Corvus capellanus*. In the winter, birds are often seen with the white parts strongly tinged with grey, this might be seasonal or a sign of birds of the year.

The Grey-backed Warbler—*Edon familiaris*. Plentiful, breeding everywhere on both sides of river. This is a beautiful whistler during the breeding season.

- Upcher's Warbler—*Hypolais languida*. Plentiful, breeding everywhere on both sides of river. The note against *Scotocerca inquieta*, the Streaked Scrub-Warbler refers rightly to this bird.
- The Streaked Scrub-Warbler—*Scotocerca inquieta*. This bird is not to be found at Fao, as might be expected, the situation is unsuited to its habits. This was an unfortunate error, which crept into my notes by mistake.
- Finsch's Grey Shrike—*Lanius fallax*. I believe this was wrongly identified and was corrected later to *L. assimilis* ? by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe.
- The Common Starling—*Sturnus vulgaris*. Starlings are to be seen in flights in the neighbourhood of Fao during the winter months November to February, some years more plentiful than at others. All that I shot were identified as *S. vulgaris*, but might turn out to be *S. vulgaris caucasicus*.
- Rose-coloured Starling—*Pastor roseus*. Only noticed in brown plumage.
- Cumming's Red-rumped Wheatear—*S. cummingsi*. I believe I identified this as *S. chrysopygia*, but Dr. Bowdler Sharpe found it to be a new species and named it after me.
- This is the only specimen obtained by me, whether the red-tailed chats seen, occasionally in the neighbourhood of Fao belong to this or to *S. chrysopygia* I cannot say.
- Dr. Bowdler Sharpe asked me to collect chats for him and I sent him several skins of different species and it was from among these he identified the present bird. He unfortunately forgot to send me a description of the bird or an illustration of it, and my note given against this does not rightly apply to it.
- Syrian Blackbird—*Turdus merula syriacus*. This was the only one seen or secured by me.
- Spanish Sparrow—*Passer hispaniolensis*. To be found at Fao—not very plentifully—associating with the Common Sparrow *P. domesticus* in winter and early spring.
- Red-headed Bunting—*Emberiza luteola*. The only bird seen or secured by me.
- Lesser Short-toed Lark—*Calandrella minor*. The two mentioned were identified by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe. See notes in the Ibis, 1891.
- The Short-toed Lark—*Calandrella brachydactyla*. Also identified by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe. See Ibis, 1891.
- The Pale-brown Swift—*Cypselus murinus*. Identified by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe as *Cyprellus pallidus* (Ibis, January 1891). Only one nest found containing eggs and taken by my collector.
- Indian Roller—*Coracias garrula*. This is not infrequently seen above Fao on both sides of river, and breeds in holes in the date palms, or other trees. One young one was brought to me from Dora, about 15 miles above Fao, which I reared on young frogs and small fish, with a little raw meat occasionally, it fully matured and became quite tame flying about the station and coming regularly for its meals.
- Common Indian Bee-eater—*Merops viridis*. Only once seen at Fao, after a severe storm, no specimens secured.
- Barn Owl—*Strix flammea*. These birds bred in the loft in the old telegraph wooden buildings. Fairly plentiful during spring and summer in suitable localities.
- Little Brown Dove—*S. cambayensis*. This is the only specimen secured during a severe storm; shot by my collector. This seems a good deal out of the way to come across this bird, and I have often wondered whether it might not have been a caged bird got loose.

The Seesee—*Ammoperdix bonhami*. Not to be found in Fao or neighbourhood. The country is unsuited for it.

Wood Pigeon—*Palumbus palumbus*. One year a large flight of these birds visited Fao, and many built nests in the date groves, but I never heard of any young being found. They left very suddenly.

Collared Pratincole—*Glareola pratincola*. Breeding in neighbourhood of Fao.

Lapwing—*Vanellus cristatus*. To be obtained at Fao some years.

White-tailed Lapwing—*Chettusia leucura*. To be found at Fao occasionally. I have shot specimens.

Kentish Plover—*E. alexandrina*. Besides this species I have found others breeding, but was not able to make sure of their identity.

Whiskered Tern—*Hydrochelidon hybrida*. Shot at Fao. See notes in Ibis, January 1891.

Little Tern—*Sterna minuta*. I obtained a series of small Terns, intermediate between *minuta* and *saundersii* which I personally handed to Dr. Bowdler Sharpe.

Imperial or Black-bellied Sand-Grouse—*Pterocles arenarius*. Eggs of this species have been obtained from the interior of Persia and Arabia and brought to Fao.

Large Pin-tailed Sand-Grouse—*Pteroclorus alchata*. These are brought alive from Persia, I have had several brought from neighbourhood of Bandermashoor, where they are reported to breed.

The Common Sand-Grouse—*P. exustus*. At times Grouse are seen and heard flying over Fao, which with the aid of binoculars I thought might be this bird but never obtained a specimen.

Macqueen's Bustard or Houbara—*Houbara macqueeni*. These are to be had on both sides of the river during winter. The eggs I received were sent to me by the Sheikh of Koweit the late Sheikh Jerrah.

Mr. McDonall, British Consul at Mahomerah, wrote to me on one occasion as follows: "An Arab friend of mine tells me that Houbara breed in the Ram Hurmuz district, he says when he lived in Fellahieh he on several occasions had Obara chicks brought in. He also says a much larger bird of that kind is rarely seen in that neighbourhood. Could this be the Great Bustard?"

I once shot a smaller Bustard, in Bushire, the *macqueeni*, it came into the compound of the house I was living in. Again on a second occasion I shot a similar bird off the mouth of Shat-el-Arab, while the steamer I was on was aground on the Fao bank. The bird kept flying round the steamer, during a heavy rain storm, when the land was obscured.

In the first instance I made a specimen of the bird and sent it to my brother Mr. John Cumming in Karachi, and I believe he sent it to England, but that it got lost in transit.

In the second instance the pot claimed the victim! So that I have never been able to confirm my identification, and I have never heard of any others being secured about these localities.

This much is certain that both birds were a good deal smaller than *macqueeni*.

Stone-Curlew—*Edimmus scolopax*. Not uncommon on both sides of river in the desert tracts at back of date-palms.

White Ibis—*Ibis melanocephala*. Plentiful at Fao during winter.

White Stork—*Ciconia alba*. Does not breed at Fao, the eggs were obtained from Baghdad.

Little Bittern—*Ardetta minuta*. I obtained two young nestlings on one occasion from the Persian side of the river.

MAMMALIA.

I once obtained a long-eared bat covered as far as I can recollect now with hoary white hairs, which I sent to the British Museum and which was considered interesting, unfortunately I have misplaced the letter from the British Museum giving the identification. It may be in the Quetta Museum.

REPTILIA AND BATRACHIA.

Trionyx euphraticus and *Clemmys caspica*. Not uncommon in the river off Fao.

Uromastix microlepis. I think there is some mistake in stating this Lizard is to be obtained at Fao. They usually inhabit sandy tracts while the soil of Fao is loamy and subject to inundations.

Varanus griseus. Not uncommon about Fao.

Rana esculenta. The edible frog. Plentiful at Fao.

Hyla arborea. Plentiful at Fao.

W. D. CUMMING.

KARACHI, March 1918.

No. XXI.—HOW TROUT WERE INTRODUCED INTO KASHMIR.

When I left Kashmir in May 1890, I was retiring from India where fishing had not been of special interest to me, but in the years that followed many of my happiest days were spent among keen fly fishers in "Bonnie Scotland" whose lochs and streams are full of the "spotted beauties," so that when fate sent me back nine years later (May 1899) my first thought for holidays was of fishing. Work tied me to Srinagar and I was told the nearest stream where sport could be had was the Arrah river which then flowed through the reservoir at Harwan. The stream and surroundings I found to be ideal but the fish were spawning at the time when one expected to find them most sporting and were very disappointing in appearance. I felt that if they could be replaced by the beauties I had loved at home, here was indeed a true angler's paradise.

To think in those days was to act and the merry month of May in which I arrived was not out before my brother William (now Lt.-Col. Mitchell, V.D.) in conjunction with Col. Ward, Col. Unwin and Capt. Allan had promised £50 towards the scheme which my experience in Scotland had taught me was feasible. Early in June, Capt. Goodenough, a fellow passenger on my journey out, introduced me to Major (now Colonel) Godfrey, First Assistant Resident, who told me that the Duke of Bedford who had been presented by the Durbar with some Kashmir stags was anxious to do something in return and had offered to send out trout ova if some one could be found to carry on the work necessary to establish the fish in Kashmir. We soon fixed up preliminaries as I wanted nothing better than to do that work and thence forward much of my spare time was taken up with investigations and a certain amount of fishing, chiefly with the Mulberry as a bait, Khont Cheroo (*Schizothorax esocinus*), Chush (*S. intermedius*), Khont (*Oreinus sinuatus*), Anyur (*Eostomas tolencikne*) and even the little Tilgrun (loach-*Nimachilus marmorata*) all take this bait in Kashmir, but quite 9 out of every 10 fish caught at Harwan were *Oreinus* in these days. They were very plentiful and I can remember one day, sitting with Capt. Allan—he at the head and I at the tail of one pool—taking out over 100 in 1½ hours of an average weight of about half a pound. It was here that I gave my faithful henchman Sodahma Pundit, his first lesson in stripping fish and fertilizing the ova. He was openly incredulous of the result when I told him to put them